

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET/CONTROL~~ - ~~U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~
Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP82-00457R002
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO

25X1A2g

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Spain/France

DATE DISTR. 18 Jan 1949

SUBJECT Relative Importance of the Factions of
the CNT

NO. OF PAGES 2 25X1A2g

25X1A6a

~~Document No.~~

PLACE
ACQUIRED

~~CHANGE~~ in Class. ☐

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

ass. CHANGED TO: TS

DATE OF INFO: 11/11/2011

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. _____

25X1X6

25X1X6

25X1X6

C-3 1.

[redacted] determine the relative strength of the two factions of the Confederacion Nacional del Trabajo - the MONTSENY, or apolitical, faction, and the faction which advocates collaboration with political groups seeking the overthrow of General FRANCO. Observation of the activities of the two groups around Toulouse led [redacted] to the conclusion that the MONTSENY faction has the greater number of followers there. Functions sponsored by that group are customarily attended by about three times as many persons as attend rallies of the political CNT. However, at a Congress of the MONTSENY group held in Toulouse in October 1948, the hall was not filled and [redacted] Federica MONTSENY, in spite of her efforts to whip up enthusiasm, was not applauded at the end of her speech declaring the policy of the CNT to be "War to the death against FRANCO and Franquism, and against the authors of all compromises and compacts."

C-3 2.

The strength in France of both organizations reportedly has diminished greatly during 1948. Socialist informants said about mid-October 1948 that the MONTSENY faction had some 12,000 affiliates in France and the collaborationist faction some 1,500. On the other hand, the MONTSENY faction in 1947, according to the same informants, had some 30,000 affiliates in addition to some 8,000 youths belonging to the Federacion Iberica de Juventudes Libertarias (Iberian Federation of Libertarian Youth - FIJL). () Comment. As late as mid-August 1948, a member of the MONTSENY faction claimed 20,000 members for that organization in France.) The collaborationist CNT, according to the Socialists, had in 1947 8,000 affiliates and 4,000 youths in its FIJL. The declines in membership are explained in part by the fact that a large number of Cenetistas have emigrated to Latin America. A substantial number, particularly of the older members, have been repatriated. Moreover, the MONTSENY faction sent a number of action groups to Spain clandestinely.

C-2 3.

Inside Spain, indications are that the collaborationist CNT is the stronger, especially in the Central, Catalan and Asturian regions. The MONTSENY CNT reportedly is fairly active in Aragon and Levante, and in French North Africa. A MONTSENY Conetista in Paris said in mid-August that his group

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~/CONTROL ~~U.S. EYES ONLY~~
 Sanitized - Approved for Release: CIA-RDP82-00754R002200740005-5

[illegible]

~~SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~

25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

was opposed to setting up a broad organization in Spain because the Police penetration of CNT nuclei was so thorough that arrest merely awaited the pleasure of the Police. Instead, isolated action by independent cells was favored. 25X1X6

- C-3 4. The Cenetistas are unlikely to come under Communist influence, [REDACTED] because they have profound doctrinal differences and have been irreconcilable enemies since the era of political battles preceding the Spanish Civil War. During the war, also, there occurred a great many incidents which deepened their differences. Another point of controversy, dating from the time of the liberation of France, is the dispute involving the now defunct Communist-dominated Union Nacional Española. The killing of a number of Cenetistas opposed to the Union Nacional is laid at the Communist door. Moreover, the Cenetistas and the Communists now accuse each other of denouncing each other's followers to the Spanish police and of revealing arms and ammunition deposits in France to the French police. The question of the situation of Spaniards in Russia, which recently received wide emigre press publicity as the Karaganda affair, gave rise to several violent incidents between Cenetistas and Communists, but the Communists have succeeded to a considerable extent in quieting the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Communist-CNT collaboration. Such a change, however, might well provoke violent action by the MONTSENY Cenetistas, which, although [REDACTED] 25X1X6

[REDACTED] Jose E. LEIVA, who represented the CNT as a minister in the GIRAL Exile Republican Government and who is prominent in the collaborationist faction. According to LEIVA, the differences between the two CNT factions have become somewhat less sharp, but it is unlikely that an accord will be reached between them outside Spain, in spite of the fact that the great majority of the rank and file favor unification. The differences begin at the directing level and are due mainly to personal grudges. LEIVA accused the MONTSENY faction of attempting to impose a "hereditary monarchy" (based on the prominence of the MONTSENY family in the organization).

- C-3 6. LEIVA described the MONTSENY faction members as "chemically pure" anarchists. This faction, he claimed, has virtually no strength inside Spain, where the tendency is toward political action. He admitted, however, that in France it was the larger of the two factions, and said that the fact that it had no substantial groups to support in Spain enabled it to maintain its press in a more solvent condition than that of the collaborationist CNT's España Libre. The collaborationist faction, on the other hand, sends most of the money it manages to collect to Spain for the aid of prisoners and of the clandestine groups. Funds sent from America reportedly have been frozen in Switzerland, having been intercepted by the foreign exchange control.
- C-3 7. LEIVA predicted that the MONTSENY faction would entirely cease to exist in Spain because there exists a tendency toward a practical solution of the Spanish question as opposed to "pure anarchy."

~~SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~